

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) An information retrieval method, comprising the steps of:

forming a general user model based on statistical data obtained by audience research on the actions of users; said general user model having general user selection taste data; said statistical data including viewing times for the users;

inputting a user profile for a specific user;

forming an initial user model for said specific user based on said general user selection data and said user profile;

forming a study user model on the basis of said initial user model and an information selection history for said specific user; and

retrieving the information suiting said specific user based on said study user model by calculating a genre taste value based on time data of a request for an electronic program guide.

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (original) The information retrieval method according to claim 1, wherein:

said general user selection taste data is the data that continuous data is converted into dispersed data; and

said dispersed data is interpolated by a predetermined interpolation method to calculate said continuous data.

Claim 4. (original) The information retrieval method according to claim 3,  
wherein:

said interpolation method is a method of interpolating in accordance with said user attribute and/or said state of information utilization.

Claim 5. (original) The information retrieval method according to claim 1,  
wherein:

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said general user selection taste data is the data that continuous data is converted into dispersed data; and

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said dispersed data is converted into said continuous data by using a predetermined corresponding function.

Claim 6. (original) The information retrieval method according to claim 5,  
wherein:

said general user selection taste data being said dispersed data is converted into said specific user's own continuous data.

Claim 7. (currently amended) An information retrieval apparatus, comprising:

general user model forming means for forming a general user model based on statistical data obtained by audience research on the actions of users; said general user model having general user selection taste data; said statistical data including viewing times for the users;

input means for inputting a user profile for a specific user;

initial user model forming means for forming an initial user model for said specific user based on said general user selection data and said user profile;

study user model forming means for forming a study user model on the basis of said initial user model and an information selection history for said specific user; and

retrieving means for retrieving the information suiting said specific user based on said study user model by calculating a genre taste value based on time data of a request for an electronic program guide.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein:

said storing means stores said general user selection taste data that continuous data is converted into dispersed data; and

said initial user model forming means interpolates said dispersed data by a predetermined interpolation method to calculate said continuous data.

Claim 10. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein:

said storing means stores the identification key for specifying said interpolation method, together with said dispersed data.

Claim 11. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,  
wherein:

said storing means stores said general user selection taste data that continuous data is  
converted into dispersed data; and

said initial user model forming means converts said dispersed data into said continuous  
data by a predetermined corresponding function.

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Claim 12. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein:

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said corresponding function is stored in said storing means stores together with said  
dispersed data.

Claim 13. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein:

said general user selection tasted data being said dispersed data is converted into said  
specific user's own continuous data.

Claim 14. (original) The information retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,  
comprising:

rewriting means for rewriting the general user selection taste data of said storing means  
onto another storing means for rewriting; wherein,

said information retrieval apparatus rewrites the data of said storing means.